

Socio-Economics under Female Leadership: Unveiling the History of the Sukadana- Landak Kingdom, 1609-1622

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Abstract: Studies on the history of Malay kingdoms in West Kalimantan have largely focused on male rulers, leaving female leadership relatively underexplored. This study examines the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan in the Sukadana-Landak Kingdom from a socio-economic historical perspective. The research employs a historical method with an interdisciplinary approach integrating social and economic analysis. Data were collected from manuscripts, archival documents, artifacts, oral traditions, and previous studies, supported by field research and analyzed through historical criticism and comparative analysis. The findings show that Ratu Mas Jaintan played a significant role in shaping the socio-economic life of the kingdom by promoting open trade, regulating the use of natural resources such as diamonds and gold, and supporting agricultural activities. These policies strengthened regional trade networks while maintaining social stability and cultural continuity. This study contributes to the historiography of Southeast Asian history by highlighting the strategic role of female leadership in managing economic networks and political authority in Malay kingdoms. It also provides broader implications for understanding gender and power relations in historical governance and the importance of female leadership in socio-economic development in early Southeast Asian societies.

Abstrak: Kajian tentang sejarah kerajaan-kerajaan Melayu di Kalimantan Barat selama ini sebagian besar berfokus pada penguasa laki-laki, sehingga kepemimpinan perempuan relatif kurang dieksplorasi. Penelitian ini mengkaji kepemimpinan Ratu Mas Jaintan di Kerajaan Sukadana-Landak dari perspektif sejarah sosial-ekonomi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode sejarah dengan pendekatan interdisipliner yang mengintegrasikan analisis sosial dan ekonomi. Data dikumpulkan dari naskah, dokumen arsip, artefak, tradisi lisan, serta studi terdahulu, yang didukung oleh penelitian lapangan dan dianalisis melalui kritik sejarah serta analisis komparatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Ratu Mas Jaintan memainkan peran penting dalam membentuk kehidupan sosial-ekonomi kerajaan dengan mendorong perdagangan terbuka, mengatur pemanfaatan sumber daya alam seperti berlian dan emas, serta mendukung aktivitas pertanian. Kebijakan-kebijakan tersebut memperkuat jaringan perdagangan regional sekaligus menjaga stabilitas sosial dan keberlanjutan budaya. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi pada historiografi Asia Tenggara dengan menyoroti peran strategis kepemimpinan perempuan dalam mengelola jaringan ekonomi dan otoritas politik di kerajaan Melayu. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga memberikan implikasi yang lebih luas dalam memahami relasi gender dan kekuasaan dalam tata kelola sejarah, serta pentingnya kepemimpinan perempuan dalam pembangunan sosial-ekonomi pada masyarakat awal Asia Tenggara.



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INTRODUCTION

The study of kingdoms is closely connected to the figures of their rulers, as leadership plays a central role in shaping political authority, social organization, and economic structures within a kingdom. In historical scholarship, rulers are often portrayed as the main actors who determine the direction of political power and social transformation. However, historical writing has frequently been criticized for its

tendency toward palace-centric narratives, which prioritize the actions of kings and political elites while overlooking the broader social dynamics surrounding them (Patmawati, 2019). As Carl L. Becker argues, history is often written from the perspective of the victors, meaning that historical narratives are shaped by those who hold power and influence over the interpretation of past events (Maarif, 1983). Consequently, historians must critically reconstruct the past using reliable sources and contextual interpretation in order to provide a more balanced understanding of historical developments.

Understanding leadership in historical societies therefore requires more than focusing solely on individual rulers. Leadership must also be examined within its broader social and political context, including the networks, social structures, and collective actors that supported the exercise of power. Hasanuddin and Hendarta (2000) argue that leadership figures should not be viewed merely as isolated individuals but as part of a broader social collective that shapes and sustains their authority. In this sense, historical analysis must consider the social structures, kinship networks, and cultural environments that enable leaders to emerge and maintain legitimacy. Social structures themselves represent long-term patterns of interaction within society that shape political authority and social organization. From the perspective of social history, the state and its leadership function as important agents of historical change, influencing both political development and societal transformation (Tosh, 1991).

The historical development of kingdoms in West Kalimantan reflects complex interactions between political authority, cultural transformation, and economic networks. Several kingdoms in this region, including Matan (Tanjungpura), Sukadana, Sambas, Landak, Mempawah, and Sekadau, were initially influenced by Hindu traditions before gradually undergoing Islamization following the spread of Islam in the region (Musa, 2003). The conversion of Raden Iswaramahayana, the ruler of Landak, to Islam in 1472 marked an important turning point in the political and religious transformation of the kingdom. Similar processes occurred in other kingdoms, such as Matan and Sambas, where the influence of Islam reshaped political institutions and leadership structures. In the case of Sambas, the emergence of the Islamic Sambas Sultanate in the seventeenth century significantly transformed regional political dynamics (Risa, 2018). These transformations demonstrate how religious change was closely intertwined with political authority and the

formation of new governance structures in the region.

Scholarly studies on the kingdoms of West Kalimantan have examined various aspects of their historical development, including royal genealogy, political structures, economic activities, and inter-kingdom relations (Aju & Isman, 2013; Firman, 2019; Hasanuddin & Hendarta, 2000; Lontaan, 1975; Musa, 2003; Rahman, 2000; Umberan, 1997; Van Dijk, 2016; MHD. Mulia, 2007; Risa, 2018; Bakar, 2017; Jaya Putra Utama et al., 2019; Raja Ali Haji, 1993). These studies provide valuable insights into the political and cultural history of the region. However, much of this literature tends to emphasize the role of male rulers, often neglecting the contributions of women in shaping political and socio-economic structures. As noted by Kuntowijoyo (in Sujati & Haq, 2020), women's roles in history are frequently marginalized, even though they have played significant roles in social and political life.

In the historical context of West Kalimantan, several women played important roles in leadership and governance. Figures such as Dara Itam, Ratu Suria Kusuma, Mas Ayu Bungsu, Putri Kesumba, Utin Cendramidi, and Ratu Mas Jaintan demonstrate that women were not merely passive actors but also active participants in political and social processes within the Malay kingdoms (Firman, 2019; Patmawati et al., 2021; Raja Ali Haji, 1993). Despite this, scholarly attention to female leadership in the region remains limited. The dominance of patriarchal perspectives in historical writing has contributed to the underrepresentation of women in historiography (Rifa'at, 2019). As a result, the historical contributions of female leaders are often overlooked or insufficiently analyzed.

One of the prominent female leaders in the history of West Kalimantan is Ratu Mas Jaintan, who played a crucial role in the governance of the Sukadana and Landak kingdoms during the early seventeenth century. Historical accounts indicate that her leadership influenced not only political authority but also the socio-economic dynamics of the region, particularly in relation to trade networks, natural resource management, and interactions with foreign traders (Van Dijk, 2016). However, existing studies on the history of West Kalimantan have rarely examined her leadership from a socio-economic historical perspective.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan and its influence on the socio-economic life of the Sukadana-Landak Kingdoms during the period 1609–1622. By em-

ploying a socio-economic historical approach, this research seeks to explore how her leadership shaped social organization, economic activities, and regional trade relations. Through this analysis, the study contributes to a broader understanding of female leadership in Southeast Asian history and highlights the role of women in shaping political and economic structures within Malay kingdoms.

METHOD

This study employs a historical research method to examine the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan in the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom from a socio-economic historical perspective. Historical research seeks to reconstruct past events systematically and critically through the examination and interpretation of historical evidence derived from various sources. Through this approach, the study does not merely describe historical events but also interprets the socio-economic dynamics that developed during the period of Ratu Mas Jaintan's leadership.

This research adopts an interdisciplinary approach that integrates historical, social, and economic perspectives. The historical approach is used to reconstruct the chronology of events related to the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan and the development of the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom during her reign. The social approach allows the study to examine how her leadership influenced the social structure, relationships, and interactions within the communities of Sukadana and Landak. Meanwhile, the economic approach is employed to analyze economic activities during her leadership, particularly those related to natural resource management, regional trade networks, and interactions with foreign merchants, including Chinese, Arab, Spanish, British, and Dutch traders who were actively involved in trade within the region.

The research utilizes both primary and secondary historical sources. Primary sources include historical manuscripts, archival documents, artifacts, and oral traditions related to the history of the Sukadana and Landak kingdoms. Field research was conducted in Sukadana and Landak to trace existing historical sites and obtain oral historical narratives from individuals who possess knowledge of local historical traditions. Secondary sources consist of scholarly books, journal articles, and previous studies related to the history of West Kalimantan, the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom, and the broader socio-economic dynamics of Malay kingdoms. These sources provide important contextual understanding and support the interpretation of historical evidence used in the study.

The process of data collection was carried out through several interconnected stages. The initial stage involved a comprehensive literature review of historical manuscripts, archival documents, and previous scholarly research concerning the Sukadana and Landak kingdoms. This stage aimed to establish the conceptual and historical foundation of the research. Subsequently, relevant historical sources were systematically identified and collected from libraries, archives, manuscripts, and previous academic studies. This stage corresponds to the heuristic phase in historical research, which focuses on locating and gathering relevant historical evidence. After the initial sources were obtained, field research was conducted in Sukadana and Landak to observe historical sites and collect oral narratives related to the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan. Interviews were conducted with key informants, including descendants of the Sukadana and Landak royal families, local historians, and community figures who possess knowledge of the historical traditions of the region.

To ensure the reliability and validity of historical data, this study applies historical source criticism consisting of external and internal criticism. External criticism is used to examine the authenticity and origin of historical sources, while internal criticism evaluates the credibility and reliability of the information contained within those sources. In addition, data triangulation is employed by comparing information obtained from written documents, oral testimonies, and material evidence such as historical artifacts. This process helps ensure that the interpretation of historical events is supported by consistent and credible evidence from multiple sources.

The analysis of historical data follows the standard stages of historical research, namely heuristics, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. After relevant sources were collected and verified, the data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis in order to reconstruct historical events and explain the socio-economic dynamics of the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom during the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan. The analysis employs deductive, inductive, and comparative techniques. Deductive analysis is used to interpret historical evidence within broader theoretical frameworks, while inductive analysis allows patterns and interpretations to emerge from the collected data. Comparative analysis is applied to compare different historical accounts and sources in order to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the historical context. In addition to qualitative analy-

sis, limited quantitative data, such as historical records of trade commodities and natural resource production, are used as supporting evidence to illustrate the economic activities of the Sukadana-Landak Kingdom during the early seventeenth century.

BIOGRAPHY OF RATU MAS JAINTAN

Ratu Mas Jaintan was born into a prominent family of rulers in the Landak Kingdom; both her father and grandfather were kings of Landak. Her father, Raden Purba Jaya Kesuma, held the title Raja Dipati Purba Jaya, while her grandfather was King Raden Purba Sari. Ratu Mas Jaintan was born in Landak, and as she matured, she married the king of Sukadana, Giri Kesuma. From this marriage, they had three children: Giri Mustika, Ratu Surya Kesuma, and Raden Lekar (Mhd. Mulia, 2007).

After the death of Panembahan Giri Kesuma, the crown prince Giri Mustika was still a child. As a result, the royal council appointed the queen consort, Ratu Mas Jaintan, as *Mangku Bumi*, with the title *Ratu Di Atas Negeri* (Mhd. Mulia, 2007). This title was given to the ruler of Sukadana, reflecting the kingdom's supremacy over the kingdoms in the upstream regions, including the Landak Kingdom. This can be seen in L'Hermite's account of trade relations with Sukadana: *A lucrative trade... especially if we are allowed to sail directly to Landak, even if it was just with a single ship, which would be used exclusively for trade with the West Coast of Borneo* (Van Dijk, 2016).

The influence of the Sukadana Kingdom over the Landak Kingdom is evident when an envoy from the Johor Kingdom sought permission to sail to Landak, but was not allowed to do so unless they used the king's boat (Van Dijk, 2016). This indicated that Sukadana held a dominant position over Landak. The Sukadana Kingdom was able to monitor the movements of ships transporting goods from their territory. While Sukadana welcomed traders from all over, it still maintained control over the trade goods and the duration of their stay within its domain.

The leaders of the Landak Kingdom, such as Kiai Aria, when dealing with external traders, advised them to first seek permission from Ratu Mas Jaintan before sailing to Tayan (Van Dijk, 2016). Tayan was under the authority of Gusti Lekar, the son of Ratu Mas Jaintan, who was tasked with securing the water routes used to send tribute from the people of Tayan to Sukadana. However, the tribute shipments were often disrupted in the Kuala Labai region by someone claiming to be the ruler of

Labai. Eventually, Gusti Lekar, along with a Dayak man named Kia Jaga from Tebang, was sent to ensure the safety of the tribute until it reached its destination. This event marked the beginning of the establishment of the Tayan Kingdom, founded by Gusti Lekar, who later married Utin Periuk (also known as Incik Periuk), the daughter of Kia Jaga (Zulfikar, 2012).

The founding of new kingdoms had to receive the approval of the Sultan of Ratu Simpang-Matan, as these kingdoms were seen as extensions of the Sukadana Kingdom. For instance, the Kubu Kingdom, founded by Syarif al-Idroes, also first sought permission to acquire the land that would become their kingdom. This made their claim to the territory legally recognized (Bakar, 2017). This permission signified a political relationship with the Simpang-Matan Kingdom.

Every trader wishing to do business in Sukadana and its subordinate kingdoms had to first enter into a trade contract with the ruler. According to the terms of the contract, the trader was required to pay four tail of gold before being granted permission to trade for one year. Any surplus goods taken out of the kingdom would incur an additional fee (Van Dijk, 2016).

The authority of the Sukadana-Matan Kingdom over the upstream kingdoms can be traced in the writings of Willer (2015), which mention that the upstream kingdoms along the Kapuas River, which had been obligated to pay tribute in the form of gold, began to resist paying it. In response, Sultan Zainuddin of Sukadana ordered his grandson, Panembahan Mempawah (Adi Jaya), to reprimand and wage war against those who refused to pay the tribute. Adi Jaya then commanded his son, Gusti Mas, along with Raja Haji from the Riau Sultanate as the military leader, and additional ships from Syarif Abdurrahman of the Pontianak Kingdom. Together, they subdued Tayan and Sanggau. After they submitted, they were required to resume paying the tribute as they had before.

During Ratu Mas Jaintan's reign, England had already established trade relations with the kingdom. In fact, in 1611, the English set up a trading office in Sukadana. The establishment of this office was due to Sukadana's role as a central trading hub for diamonds from the Landak Kingdom and a major port for the spice trade, including pepper, rubber, copra, and tannin, which were produced in Sukadana and traded through its port (Purba, 2011). This trade activity meant that whoever ruled the kingdom would inevitably become involved in international trade networks.

At the end of Ratu Mas Jaintan's reign, a conflict emerged between Sukadana, Landak, and Mataram, primarily over control of *Intan Kobi*, a sacred heirloom and symbol of sovereignty. In this conflict, Ratu Mas Jaintan sought help from the King of Sanggau, Pangerang Agung Renggang, to face the dispute, which ultimately escalated into warfare between the two sides (Tomi, 2017). The King of Landak, Anom Jayakusuma, attacked Sukadana to reclaim the *Intan Kobi*, which had been seized by his sister, Ratu Mas Jaintan. Meanwhile, Sultan Agung of Mataram sent a fleet, led by Bupati Kendal Baurekso (Baraksya) and Irayasa, with the goal of severing Sukadana's trade relations with Surabaya in 1622 (Mhd. Mulia, 2007).

Research on Ratu Mas Jaintan aligns with other studies examining the history of kingdoms in West Kalimantan, especially regarding the influence of women in political leadership. This study is in line with Mhd. Mulia's (2007) research, which highlights the role of women in the power structures of the Malay kingdoms during that period, showing that women could hold key positions such as *Mangku Bumi* (a high-ranking regent or protector) and play vital roles in maintaining the stability of the kingdom. Another study by Van Dijk (2016) supports the finding that international trade was a crucial aspect of Ratu Mas Jaintan's administration. With the establishment of the British trade office in Sukadana and the strict control over trade routes to Landak, this research aligns with findings that highlight the central role of Sukadana in the global trade network. Furthermore, researchers like Zulfikar (2012) strengthen the view that political alliances, such as the marriage between Gusti Lekar and Utin Periuk, were important instruments for expanding the kingdom's influence in the interior regions.

However, this research differs from some studies that primarily focus on the influence of the Mataram Sultanate and Java in regional politics. This study places more emphasis on the internal dynamics of West Kalimantan and the relationships between the kingdoms within the region, which are often overlooked in studies that focus on external interventions, such as those from Mataram. By focusing on the internal political landscape, this research provides a more nuanced understanding of the regional power structures and the important role of female rulers like Ratu Mas Jaintan in shaping the political and economic networks of West Kalimantan.

Expanding the findings of this research can help address the overarching question of the role of women in the politics of Malay kingdoms and how

their power influenced the political and economic stability of these realms. By broadening the scope of the study to include local sources, such as historical documents from the Sukadana, Landak, and Tayan kingdoms, which may be preserved in royal archives or oral traditions of local communities, a more comprehensive picture of Ratu Mas Jaintan's influence can be drawn. Further research could also focus on the role of women in diplomatic networks and international trade within the region. Examining how female rulers like Ratu Mas Jaintan established relationships with foreign traders or other kingdoms could shed light on the larger question of how women contributed to the expansion of global trade networks in the 17th century. Moreover, interdisciplinary studies involving anthropology and gender studies could provide new dimensions to this research. Investigating how social and cultural norms influenced the legitimacy of female power in Malay kingdoms would enrich our understanding of the role of women in traditional political systems in Southeast Asia. By expanding the scope of this research, it would not only deepen our understanding of Ratu Mas Jaintan as an individual but also offer broader insights into the political and social dynamics involving female rulers across the Nusantara during that era. Ultimately, more in-depth studies will contribute to answering the larger question of the strength and influence of women in the political history of Southeast Asia, particularly in the Kalimantan region.

THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF RATU MAS JAINTAN IN ORGANIZING THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE COMMUNITIES IN THE KINGDOMS OF LANDAK AND SUKADANA, WEST KALIMANTAN

The findings of this study demonstrate that Ratu Mas Jaintan played a crucial role in shaping the social and economic order of the Sukadana-Landak Kingdom during the early seventeenth century. Her leadership was not limited to ceremonial authority but involved strategic decision-making in diplomacy, trade management, and social integration within the kingdom. These findings can be interpreted through theoretical perspectives on gender and power in history, political leadership theory, and regional economic networks in Southeast Asia.

One of the most significant examples of Ratu Mas Jaintan's leadership can be seen in her response to a request from Samuel Bloemaert, a representative of the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce, who sought exclusive trading rights in the kingdom. According to historical records, the

queen rejected this request and stated that “granting such a request would destroy her land; therefore, the territories under her rule are open to all nations, and access is available to everyone” (Van Dijk, 2016). This statement indicates that Ratu Mas Jaintan deliberately rejected monopolistic trade arrangements that could undermine the economic sovereignty of the kingdom. By maintaining an open trade policy, she ensured that no single foreign power could dominate the kingdom’s natural resources, particularly diamonds and gold, which were the main commodities of the region.

From the perspective of political leadership theory, this decision reflects the characteristics of strategic leadership. Effective leaders are often defined by their ability to balance internal stability with external pressures, particularly in contexts where economic interests intersect with political authority. Ratu Mas Jaintan’s refusal to grant exclusive trading privileges demonstrates a clear strategy to preserve the kingdom’s autonomy while still benefiting from international trade networks. Her policy allowed multiple foreign merchants including Chinese, Arab, English, and Portuguese traders—to participate in commercial activities in Sukadana and Landak. This approach strengthened economic competition and prevented monopolistic control by European traders, particularly the Dutch.

The open trade policy implemented by Ratu Mas Jaintan also contributed to the development of Sukadana and Landak as active trade centers in West Kalimantan. The presence of foreign merchants increased economic exchanges and intensified social interactions between local communities and international traders. However, despite the expansion of trade networks, the local society continued to maintain its agrarian traditions. Historical accounts show that agricultural activities remained an essential part of the socio-economic structure of the kingdom. For instance, when the ruler of Sambas attempted to persuade the Dayak chiefs of Landak to trade diamonds during the harvest season, the chiefs refused, stating that they were “too busy with the harvest” (Van Dijk, 2016). This response illustrates that agricultural obligations and ritual traditions remained a priority for local communities, even in the context of expanding commercial activities.

From a socio-economic historical perspective, the coexistence of commercial trade networks with traditional agrarian systems represents a characteristic feature of early modern Southeast Asian societies. Regional economies during this period were shaped by the interaction between maritime

trade networks and inland production systems, where local communities combined agricultural activities with participation in broader exchange networks (Ōta, 2019; Man et al., 2022; Clayton, 2023). In the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom, agricultural rituals such as *Ngawah*, *Nabo Panyugu*, *Nabakang*, *Nugal*, and *Naik Dango* demonstrate the persistence of cultural traditions within the economic life of the community. These rituals not only regulated agricultural cycles but also reinforced social cohesion among the Dayak communities in Landak. Similar ritual traditions among Dayak communities have been identified as important mechanisms for strengthening collective identity and social integration (Hariyanti & Anggara, 2023; Kalimantan et al., 2022). Leadership structures within Dayak societies themselves have historically played an important role in maintaining social order and cultural continuity through customary authority and local leadership institutions (Musa et al., 2021). In this context, the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan did not disrupt traditional social structures; instead, it enabled economic expansion through trade while allowing local cultural practices and agrarian traditions to continue.

The loyalty of the Dayak chiefs to Ratu Mas Jaintan further illustrates the effectiveness of her leadership. Historical records describe how she summoned the chiefs of Landak, including Kiai Aria and Tommagon, and required them to swear an oath of allegiance declaring that they should not obey any nation other than Sukadana, with severe penalties imposed for violations (Van Dijk, 2016). Such practices reflect broader patterns of political authority in early Southeast Asian kingdoms, where rulers maintained power through alliances with local elites and subordinate leaders (Khan, 2015). The willingness of the Dayak chiefs to comply with this oath indicates that Ratu Mas Jaintan successfully established political legitimacy and loyalty among different ethnic groups within the kingdom. From the perspective of behavioral leadership theory, the loyalty demonstrated by these chiefs illustrates how leadership behavior can influence group cohesion and institutional stability. A decisive leader who establishes clear rules and maintains fairness in governance tends to gain stronger support from followers. Historical studies on female political leadership also indicate that women leaders can play an important role in shaping political behavior and institutional legitimacy, particularly when they demonstrate strong governance capacity and strategic authority (Liu, 2018; Nurcholis & Nur, 2023). In broader historical contexts, women leaders have

often contributed to socio-political development by strengthening networks of authority and community trust (Bari & Ali, 2025; Taufiq & Ali, 2023).

Another important dimension of Ratu Mas Jaintan's leadership was her ability to resist external political pressure from European traders. Historical accounts indicate that Dutch merchants attempted to undermine her authority by secretly trading in Karimata Island and spreading rumors that Sukadana had become a Dutch feudal territory. In response, Ratu Mas Jaintan reprimanded the traders and deployed armed forces to threaten the Dutch trading office. Such reactions demonstrate her determination to defend the sovereignty of the kingdom against foreign interference. Similar forms of negotiation and resistance toward European commercial expansion were common in maritime Southeast Asia during the seventeenth century, when local rulers sought to balance diplomatic relations with colonial powers while protecting their economic autonomy (Hägerdal, 2024; Surya et al., 2020). Rather than passively accepting colonial influence, many Southeast Asian rulers actively negotiated with foreign traders to maintain political control over local trade networks (Bassett, 1989).

These actions highlight the agency of local rulers in Southeast Asian history. Colonial narratives often portray local kingdoms as passive actors gradually dominated by European powers. However, the case of Ratu Mas Jaintan demonstrates that local leadership structures could remain influential and adaptive in the face of expanding global trade. Her policies ensured that foreign merchants could participate in commerce only under the authority of the kingdom. Comparable patterns can be observed in other Southeast Asian trading polities, where rulers regulated maritime trade through port authorities and merchant networks to maintain control over economic exchange (Man et al., 2022; Baihaqi et al., 2025).

The economic dimension of Ratu Mas Jaintan's leadership can also be observed in the management of natural resources. Diamonds from Landak were among the most valuable commodities traded through the port of Sukadana. Historical records indicate that thousands of carats of diamonds were exported during the early seventeenth century, with traders transporting these commodities to Batavia, Europe, and other trading centers. In addition to diamonds, the region also produced gold and agricultural products such as rice. Archaeological and historical studies of early maritime trade routes indicate that commodities such as rice, minerals, and forest products were essential com-

ponents of Southeast Asia's long-distance trade systems (Castillo et al., 2016; Bellina et al., 2019; Clayton, 2023). The export of rice from Sukadana to Dutch trading posts in Batavia, the Moluccas, and Siam further demonstrates the kingdom's integration into regional economic networks beyond Borneo.

From the perspective of Southeast Asian economic history, the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom can therefore be understood as part of a broader maritime trading system that connected inland resource zones with international markets. The strategic location of Sukadana's port enabled it to function as a gateway through which mineral resources and agricultural commodities could enter regional trade circuits. Maritime ports played a central role in facilitating such exchanges, linking inland production areas with global commercial routes (Man et al., 2022; Clayton, 2023). Ratu Mas Jaintan's leadership ensured that these economic activities were regulated in a way that benefited both the kingdom and its population.

These findings are consistent with previous studies on the economic and political history of Malay kingdoms in West Kalimantan. Van Dijk (2016) highlights the importance of Sukadana as a center of diamond trade and international commerce during the seventeenth century. Similarly, Caldwell and Ernst Utrecht (2011) argue that the abundance of natural resources in the Indonesian archipelago attracted foreign traders and stimulated the development of regional trade networks. More recent studies also show that maritime Southeast Asian economies were shaped by complex networks of trade, diplomacy, and local political authority (Hägerdal, 2024; Clayton, 2023). This research supports these interpretations but contributes a new perspective by emphasizing the role of female leadership in managing economic networks and political relations within the kingdom. Furthermore, this research contributes to the historiography of gender in Southeast Asian history. Historical narratives often emphasize male rulers, but the leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan demonstrates that women could exercise significant political authority and influence economic policy. Female leadership in historical societies has been shown to play an important role in shaping political institutions, governance practices, and social development (Liu, 2018; Wirawan & Rosyidah, 2025). Her ability to negotiate with foreign traders, maintain loyalty among local leaders, and regulate trade networks illustrates how female rulers could play a central role in shaping regional political and economic dynamics.

Despite these contributions, several limitations must be acknowledged. Historical sources related to Ratu Mas Jaintan remain relatively limited, and many of them originate from European records written by traders or colonial officials. Such sources may reflect external perspectives that do not fully represent local viewpoints. Consequently, some aspects of the social and political dynamics of the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom may remain underexplored. Future research could address these limitations by incorporating additional local sources, including regional manuscripts, oral traditions, and archaeological evidence. Integrating interdisciplinary approaches that combine history, anthropology, and gender studies would help provide deeper insights into the everyday lives of communities within the kingdom and the broader impact of Ratu Mas Jaintan’s leadership on social and economic development in West Kalimantan.

THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF RATU MAS JAINTAN IN MANAGING THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE COMMUNITIES IN THE KINGDOMS OF LANDAK AND SUKADANA, WEST KALIMANTAN

The sustainability of people’s livelihoods in the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom was closely related to the ability of the ruler to manage natural resources and regulate economic activities. One of the most important commodities during the reign of Ratu Mas Jaintan was diamonds, which were widely traded through the port of Sukadana. Historical records indicate that significant quantities of diamonds were exported from Landak between 1609 and 1621. As shown in Table 1, diamond

exports reached thousands of carats and were transported by various traders to destinations such as Batavia, Europe, and other regional trading centers (Van Dijk, 2016).

The table shows that the diamond trade was not a small-scale activity but part of a larger regional trade network. In total, approximately 8,709 carats of diamonds were exported during the reign of Ratu Mas Jaintan. Dutch traders dominated these exports, acquiring about 8,693 carats, while British traders obtained only a small portion. However, historical records also indicate that long before the arrival of the Dutch, merchants from China, Arabia, and Portugal had already been involved in trading activities in the region. This suggests that the economy of Sukadana–Landak had been integrated into international trade networks prior to European colonial expansion.

From the perspective of economic network theory in Southeast Asian history, these trade activities demonstrate the strategic position of Sukadana as part of the maritime trading system connecting inland resource areas with global markets. The port of Sukadana functioned as a gateway that linked mineral resources from the interior regions of Landak with international merchants. This pattern is consistent with historical interpretations that describe Southeast Asian kingdoms as intermediaries in global trade networks, where local rulers played an important role in regulating access to valuable commodities (Caldwell & Utrecht, 2011).

In addition to diamonds, the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom was also rich in gold and other mineral resources. Evidence of historical mining activities can still be found in several locations, such

Table 1. Number of Diamonds Exiting Sukadana-Landak

No	Year	Diamond Weight	Carrier	Destination
1	1609	633 diamonds, total 275 carats	Pieter Aertzoon	Batam
2	1610	154.5 carats	Samuel Bloemaert	Europe
3	1611	456 diamonds, total 187.5 carats	Salvement	Batam
4	1611	522 diamonds, seven-eighths carat	P. Aertszoon	Batam
5	1612	430 carats	Coteels	
6	1613	237 carats	Hendrik Vaeght	Batam
7	1613	200 carats	Deinszoon	
8	1616	600 carats	Deinszoon	
9	1618	1925 diamonds, total 575 carats and 2 diamonds, 12 carats		Jakarta
10	1619	257.5 carats		
11	1620	13 carats	English	
12	1620	500-1000 carats		Jakarta
13	1620	731 carats		
14	1621	1731 carats		Dutch

Source: Van Dijk, 2016

as near the Taman Makam Juang Mandor cemetery and in the Sandai area, which is known for its gold and bauxite deposits. Oral historical accounts further support the significance of these natural resources. As explained by Hj. Fadiah, the caretaker of the Tanjungpura cemetery, "Ketapang is a producer of bauxite, and Sandai has gold and bauxite mines." These resources contributed to the economic prosperity of the region and attracted merchants from different parts of Asia and Europe.

The importance of Sukadana as a trading center is also supported by local historical narratives. Jamadi, a historian from Sukadana, noted that "around 1609 or the sixteenth to seventeenth century, Sukadana reached its peak due to its port, exporting iron ore, axes, and weapons to Malacca. There were also blacksmiths in Ketapang." This statement indicates that economic activities in the kingdom were not limited to the extraction of raw materials but also included local manufacturing and craft production. Such activities demonstrate the existence of a diversified economic structure in which trade, mining, and craftsmanship were interconnected.

Archaeological remnants further illustrate the importance of Sukadana's port in regional trade networks. Cannons found along the coast near the Sukadana palace, as well as Dutch infrastructure such as water reservoirs and salt storage warehouses, provide material evidence of intense commercial activities and interactions with foreign traders. These findings indicate that Sukadana functioned as an important maritime hub that facilitated the exchange of commodities between inland producers and international markets.

However, the economic life of the Sukadana-Landak Kingdom was not solely dependent on mineral resources. Agriculture also played a crucial role in sustaining the kingdom's economy. Historical sources indicate that rice production was an important economic activity that complemented mining and trade. According to Van Dijk (2016), rice from Sukadana was exported to Dutch trading posts in Batavia, the Moluccas, and Siam. This information is supported by oral accounts from Utin Renasari, caretaker of the Matan Kingdom, who explained that "in the past, Sukadana-Matan supplied rice. Farming was carried out by the Dayak people, who dried their rice in Padang Tikar and Teluk Melano." These statements demonstrate that agricultural production was closely connected to the regional trade system.

From the perspective of political leadership theory, the ability of Ratu Mas Jaintan to regulate

trade and manage natural resources reflects a strategic approach to economic governance. Effective leadership in pre-modern kingdoms often involved balancing external commercial interests with internal economic stability and institutional control over markets. Studies on political economy in early societies emphasize that leaders often played a central role in regulating resources, markets, and exchange networks in order to maintain political authority and social stability (Earle & Spriggs, 2015; Blanton & Feinman, 2025). In this context, Ratu Mas Jaintan maintained royal control over trade activities while allowing foreign merchants to participate in commercial exchanges. Her refusal to grant exclusive trading privileges to the Dutch illustrates a deliberate effort to prevent foreign monopolies and maintain economic sovereignty. Such resistance to monopolistic trade practices reflects broader historical debates about the dangers of monopoly in colonial trade systems, which often undermined local economic autonomy (Donoghue, 2024). At the same time, her policy of allowing multiple foreign traders to engage in commerce created a more open trading environment, similar to historical examples of free trade policies that enabled smaller states or ports to benefit from international commercial networks (Wilson, 2023). This strategy demonstrates how leadership in pre-modern trading states could combine economic pragmatism with political autonomy. Comparable patterns have also been observed in other Malay maritime kingdoms, where rulers actively regulated trade policies and diplomatic relations with foreign merchants to protect economic interests and maintain political legitimacy (Hanifa et al., 2024). More broadly, historical studies of leadership and economic philosophy suggest that effective rulers often integrate resource management, trade regulation, and social stability in order to sustain economic prosperity and governance legitimacy.

This policy is particularly significant in the context of early colonial expansion in Southeast Asia. Many European trading companies attempted to establish monopolistic control over valuable commodities, especially spices and minerals. By rejecting exclusive privileges for the Dutch, Ratu Mas Jaintan ensured that trade remained open to multiple partners. Such a strategy created competitive economic conditions and reduced the risk of economic domination by a single foreign power. This approach demonstrates the agency of local rulers in negotiating economic relations with European merchants.

The findings of this research are consistent with previous studies on the economic history of Malay kingdoms in West Kalimantan. Van Dijk (2016) emphasized the importance of the diamond trade from Sukadana–Landak in shaping regional economic dynamics. Similarly, Caldwell and Ernst Utrecht (2011) argued that the abundance of natural resources in the Indonesian archipelago attracted foreign traders and stimulated extensive international economic interactions. This study supports these interpretations but adds a new dimension by highlighting the role of female leadership in managing these economic networks.

In contrast to some historical studies that emphasize the dominance of colonial powers in shaping the regional economy, this research demonstrates that local rulers were able to maintain significant control over economic activities. The leadership of Ratu Mas Jaintan illustrates that female rulers could exercise effective authority in regulating trade policies and protecting the economic interests of their kingdoms. Her ability to balance foreign trade relations with domestic resource management shows that local political structures remained influential despite increasing European commercial presence.

Despite these contributions, several limitations should be acknowledged. One limitation of this study is the limited availability of historical sources that directly describe the internal economic conditions of local communities. While the available data provide detailed information about trade commodities such as diamonds, gold, and rice, there is relatively little evidence about how these economic activities affected different social groups within the kingdom. In particular, the socio-economic conditions of farmers, miners, and indigenous Dayak communities remain underexplored.

Another limitation is the reliance on historical sources produced by European traders and colonial officials. These documents often emphasize commercial interests and may not fully represent the perspectives of local societies. As a result, certain aspects of everyday economic life in the Sukadana–Landak Kingdom may not be adequately captured in the historical record.

Future research could address these limitations by incorporating additional sources from local traditions, including oral histories, regional manuscripts, and archaeological findings. Such materials could provide deeper insights into the socio-economic dynamics of the kingdom and help explain how the wealth generated from natural resources was distributed among different segments

of society. Further interdisciplinary studies combining historical, anthropological, and economic approaches would also contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between political power, economic networks, and local communities in the history of West Kalimantan.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that Ratu Mas Jaintan played a significant role in shaping the social and economic dynamics of the Landak and Sukadana Kingdoms in West Kalimantan. Through her leadership, the kingdom maintained an open trade system that encouraged interactions with various international merchants while preventing monopolistic control by foreign powers. Her policies in regulating trade and managing natural resources such as diamonds, gold, and agricultural commodities contributed to economic stability and strengthened the position of Sukadana–Landak as an important trading center in the region.

This research contributes to the historiography of Southeast Asian history by highlighting the strategic role of female leadership in pre-modern Malay kingdoms. The findings show that Ratu Mas Jaintan was not only a symbolic ruler but also an active political actor who was able to regulate economic networks, maintain social cohesion, and preserve the sovereignty of her kingdom. The study therefore broadens the understanding of gender and power relations in historical governance and demonstrates that women could exercise significant authority in political and economic decision-making.

Despite these contributions, this study also faces several limitations, particularly the limited availability of primary sources that directly reflect local perspectives. Much of the available documentation originates from European records, which may not fully capture the socio-economic experiences of local communities. Future research is therefore needed to explore additional local sources, such as oral traditions and regional manuscripts, in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of Ratu Mas Jaintan's leadership on the social and economic life of society in West Kalimantan.

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